

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1277

By Powell

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Paul Elton Bass of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Paul Elton Bass; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bass was a veteran of the United States Air Force and a beloved educator who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on January 6, 1956, Paul Bass was the son of Addie Sue Bass; he confessed his love for Christ at an early age and was baptized at Galilee Baptist Church, where he was a member of the junior choir; he was also a member of the chorus at Pearl High School, from which he graduated in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bass attended Tennessee State University (TSU), where he was a member of the Air Force ROTC "Tiger Jets" drill team, Meister Singers, and Youth Mentoring; following a stint at TSU, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, serving his country under the rank of Medical Service Specialist, E4; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to civilian life, Paul Bass enrolled at Middle Tennessee State University, where he was a member of the Kappa Xi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; after a year there, he returned to TSU, from which he earned his bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, Mr. Bass embarked upon his forty-year teaching career, serving as the in-school suspension counselor at Bass Middle School; then, in 1989, he joined the faculty at Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet High School, where he was beloved by all who walked its halls and had a profound, lasting impact on his students and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, during his twenty-five-year tenure at Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet High School, Paul Bass taught science and coached wrestling and soccer; although he retired in 2014, he returned to Metro Nashville Public Schools in 2015 as a part-time employee at Martin Luther King and The Academy at Old Cockrill; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded by those in his field, Mr. Bass was named Teacher of the Year on multiple occasions and was recognized by the National Wrestling Coaches Association; he was a member of the Tennessee Education Association and the Metropolitan Nashville Education Association and received service awards from the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his devotion to his students, Paul Bass was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he will be fondly remembered but sadly mourned by his devoted sister, Eleanor Bass; Michael Washington; Brian Britton; Anthony Jackson; Alisa Jackson; Renee Jackson; Tracie T. Bond; Gary Lee "Poo-Poo" Jackson, Jr.; Byron Harper; Eddie Patton-Gooch; Michael Bush; Regina (Bill) Givens; Searra Williams; Rolanda Walker; Chantae Jackson; Courtney Robinson; Terry Williams; Charles Williams; and Nzinga Jean; special friends, Barbara Harper, Judy Jackson, Rhonda Johnson, Willie Armstrong, Howard Cole, and Grady Odom; his Alpha Phi Alpha brothers; and a host of other family and friends, students, co-workers, and community; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by his grandparents, Lloyd and Vallie Bass; and his aunts and uncles, Julia Carroll, Wallace Bass, Della Jackson, Catherine Moore, Murray and Mary Thacker, Clara Copeland, Fred and Fannie Waters, Dr. Alphonse Peterson, Robert and Effie Dement, Herman Jackson, and Quentin Jackson; and

WHEREAS, Paul Bass leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Paul Elton Bass, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Bass.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.